14. A cable according to any one of claims 1, 3-7 and 9-11, comprising a bundle of optical fibers and an insulating covering having at least one layer constituted essentially by said covering material.

15. A method of manufacturing a cable according to any one of claims 1, 3-7 and 9-11, wherein the composite material of said covering material is made by the following steps:

said inorganic compound is in the form of particles having an initial size of micron order, and said inorganic compound particles are treated with an agent so as to ensure that said inorganic compound particles are compatible with said organic compound;

said treated inorganic compound is mixed with said organic compound at a temperature higher than the softening temperature or melting temperature of said organic compound; and

said composite material is obtained, wherein said composite material is in the form of particles, said composite material particles have a size of nanometer order, and said composite material particles comprise said organic compound inserted between the layers of said inorganic compound.

16. A method according to claim 15, in which said inorganic compound is a clay and said compatibility agent is selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium salts, polyethylene oxides, and phosphorous-containing derivatives.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please delete the present Abstract of the Disclosure and replace it with the following new Abstract of the Disclosure.

A cable containing at least one optical fiber and at least one covering layer containing a material including an organic compound and an inorganic compound, wherein the inorganic compound has a layered structure and the organic compound is inserted between the layers of the inorganic compound.